

GERMANS STILL PUSHING HAIG'S LINE BACK

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PRICE TWO CENTS.

Copyright, 1918, by The Press Publishing Co. (The New York World).

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1918.

14 PAGES

PRICE TWO CENTS.

GERMANS SHELLING PARIS WITH 62-MILE RANGE 'GUN'

WITHIN 60 YARDS OF ENEMY! SEES NO MAN'S LAND FROM FRONT TRENCH AT MIDNIGHT

What
Martin
Green
Saw
From a
Front
U. S.
Trench

"We Looked Out Into No Man's Land, Which the Germans Just at the Minute Had Accommodatingly Illuminated With Soaring Rockets and Numerous Flares."

"We Could See Through Our Barbed Wire Entanglements the Barbed Wire Defenses of the Germans and Imagined We Saw Hostile Soldiers Prowling About."

"The Germans Had Opened Up Their Artillery Bombardment Promptly at Midnight and the Tops of the Hills Were Illuminated by Red Flashes."

"A Bullet Passed About Four Feet Over Our Heads; Another Hit a Parapet and Spattered Mud on One of Our Soldiers. He Didn't Move!"

By Martin Green.

(Special Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)

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SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE, March 1.

THIS is a story of a night in the trenches with the only unit of the American forces which is holding a sector on the western front in France under the direct control of its own officers. For the first time since we began to take an active part in fighting we have a part of the line all by our lonesome, and French officers say we are doing our bit in a way that calls for nothing but the highest commendation.



MARTIN GREEN

When the decision was reached to put American troops in the trenches under their own officers the French military authorities assigned us to a sector in a valley that appears to have been an old river bed. I have never seen the mud in Flanders, but it can't be any worse than the mud in our trenches and in our positions back of the trenches. In the trenches the mud is brown, on the roads it is white, and it sticks like mucilage. Where it touches the skin it stains like iodine, and only scrubbing with hot water and soap will remove it.

Early on a Sunday morning I visited the headquarters of the General in command of the sector. He is a typical old war horse, bronzed by years of exposure to the sun on the plains of the United States and in the Philippines. There were two correspondents with me, and we explained that we wanted to visit the troops in the trenches and sort of soak into ourselves an idea of what trench life is like.

SENT TO THE FRONT TRENCH AT NIGHT.

"You'll soak in more than information," remarked the General, with a smile. "Report to me at 8 o'clock to-night and I'll send you to the front line. For very good reasons, I have decided that no one not bent on business connected with the actual hostilities shall visit the trenches in the daytime."

From the window of the general's office in a French village several miles back of the trenches we could look out over miles and miles of the valley which is the theatre of war in that section. It was a beautiful sunny morning. The air was clear and we could see quite plainly a series of hills upon which and behind which the Germans have mounted artillery which commands our positions. The section assigned to us had been held by the French since the beginning of the war and had been the scene of many sanguinary encounters before the khaki of Uncle Sam's boys replaced the sky blue of the forces of France. Shell holes in the ground around headquarters showed where the Germans in days gone by had landed some big projectiles in an endeavor to blow up the French headquarters.

A short distance away, in the direction of the trenches, there were

(Continued on Third Page.)

KAISER TAKES COMMAND; BERLIN CLAIMS ADVANCE TO 3D LINE; 25,000 PRISONERS

German War Office Announces That British Have Been Forced Out of More Than Half a Dozen Towns —Big Gains on Cambrai Front.

LONDON, March 23.—To-day's German official announcement received here states that Emperor William is in command on the western front.

This announcement is regarded as further evidence that the Emperor has staked his all on an offensive, hoping to win and to go down in history as the victor in this great and decisive world conflict.

The German Crown Prince, Field Marshal von Hindenburg and Gen. von Ludendorff are reported to be with him.

BERLIN, March 23 (British Admiralty, per Wireless Press).—"The captures so far reported by the army group of Crown Prince Rupprecht are 15,000 prisoners and 250 guns; by the army group of the German Crown Prince, 10,000 prisoners, 150 guns and 300 machine guns," says the War Office statement.

Artillery battles continue between the Lys and La Bassée Canal, on both sides of Rheims, before Verdun and in Lorraine.

The announcement says the Germans are standing before the third enemy position. It reports that the British evacuated their positions in the bend southwest of Cambrai and were pursued by the Germans through Demicourt, Flesquieres and Ribecourt.

Between Fontaine les Croisilles and Moeuvres German forces penetrated into the second enemy position and captured two villages.

The two villages taken were Voulx-Vraucourt and Morchies, the former being about 3 1/2 miles and the latter about 2 1/2 miles behind the former British front.

Between Gonnelleu and the Omignon Stream, the statement says, the first two enemy positions were penetrated and the heights west of Gouzeau Court, Haudicourt and Villers-Faucon were captured.

After the capture of the first enemy position the Germans made their way through Holnon Wood and fought across the heights of Savy and Rouppe, penetrating into the third hostile position.

A crossing over the Oise west of La Fere, six and one-half miles south of St. Quentin, was forced by Jaeger battalions, it is added.

South of the Somme the Germans broke through the hostile line and in an uninterrupted forward movement drove the enemy over the Crozat Canal toward the west.

FRANCE REPULSE GERMANS IN THE WOEVRE.

PARIS, March 23.—The Germans launched an attack on the French lines in the Woëvre district last night which was dispersed by the French fire. The Germans suffered appreciable losses and left some prisoners in the hands of the French.

SWEDEN NEUTRAL TO END, PREMIER SAYS IN CRISIS

Finland's Demands for Arms Denied, He Avers, "To Keep Us Out of War."

STOCKHOLM, Thursday, March 21. (Premier Eklund, speaking yesterday at Stockholm on the new and grave problems facing Sweden through the complete transformation of the situation in the Baltic, declared the Government would maintain a policy of unshakable neutrality.)

Answering questions, the Premier said the Finnish Government had repeatedly requested arms and ammunition from Sweden and Swedish mili-

tary intervention in the civil war in Sweden had been refused to refuse the request, he explained, in order to avoid being dragged into the war.

The request for intervention, submitted by the Premier, was made similar previously to Sweden and to Germany. Germany responded to the call and would not place herself to be so placed. Sweden has never pursued the same policy, but has chosen to participate in such a dangerous game, he added.

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BOMBARDMENT LASTS HOURS; SHELLS DROP EVERY 15 MINUTES

90 DIVISIONS OF GERMANS FORCE BACK BRITISH TROOPS IN NIGHT AND DAY BATTLE

Haig Admits Withdrawal in St. Quentin Sector, but Claims Lines Hold in the North, Contradicting the Berlin Official Report.

BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 23 (Associated Press).—The British, gallantly fighting, are still presenting a solid front to the fiercely attacking Germans, although the defensive troops have withdrawn their lines in certain places for strategic reasons.

All day yesterday and much of last night the conflict continued to rage with increasing violence, as fresh German divisions were hurled into the fray in an attempt to smash through the British defenses.

Fifty German divisions have been identified thus far on the battlefield and prisoners have been taken from eighteen of them. Some estimates place the number of German divisions engaged as high as ninety, but it is impossible to say whether this is accurate.

The operation is so vast and is changing with such kaleidoscopic rapidity as the line surges backward and forward that it is impossible to visualize the scene sufficiently to give a connected and accurate account of it at present.

Throughout the night the battlefield extended southward, and it was reported this morning that the French Army was now engaged.

TERRIFIC SLAUGHTER OF GERMAN TROOPS

LONDON, March 23.—French forces to the right of the British lines below St. Quentin are now engaged, despatches from the British front declared to-day.

The slaughter at Roiselcourt is appalling. Every available gun has been concentrated against the solid masses of the enemy.

Powerful enemy attacks delivered with great weight of infantry and artillery have broken through the British defensive system west of St. Quentin, the War Office announces. British troops on the northern portion of the battlefield are holding their positions. Following is the text of the official statement:

"Heavy fighting continued until late hours last night on the whole battlefield. During the afternoon powerful hostile attacks, delivered with great weight of infantry and artillery, broke through our defensive system west of St. Quentin.

"Our troops on this part of the battlefield are falling back in good order across the devastated area of prepared positions further west.

"Our troops on the northern portion of the battlefield are holding their positions. Very heavy fighting with fresh hostile troops is in progress."

The Germans forced their way into Mory, but a dashing counter-

(Continued on Second Page.)

Ten Persons Killed in the Suburbs of the French Capital—City Raided From the Air Last Night and Again To-Day.

PARIS, March 23.—The Germans have been firing on Paris with long-range guns. Since 8 o'clock this morning shells of 240-millimetres have been reaching the capital and suburbs at intervals of a quarter of an hour, killing about ten persons and wounding fifteen. The shortest distance from Paris to the front is over 100 kilometres—about sixty-two miles.

The announcement that Paris was being bombarded was made officially this afternoon.

Measures for counter-attacking the enemy's cannon are under execution.

An air raid alarm has just been given.

The official announcement that Paris is being bombarded must remain unexplained until further details have been received. The statement in the despatch that the shortest distance from Paris to the front is over 100 kilometres indicates that there has been no breach in the battle line above Paris such as would permit of bringing up guns to within what has been previously regarded as the extreme range of heavy pieces.

Unless the Germans have some new invention, no such range as sixty miles is conceivable. The most powerful guns in action heretofore have been able to hurl their projectiles only twenty miles or thereabouts.

The calibre of the shells reaching Paris, 240 millimetres, is equivalent to about 9 1/2 inches. The heavy German siege pieces fire 17-inch shells.

Paris had been under bombardment for about eight hours at the time the foregoing despatch was filed, 4.15 P. M.

GERMAN FLYERS BOMBARD PARIS AGAIN DURING DAYLIGHT RAID

Pursued by French Aviators After Dropping Explosives—Poincare and Clemenceau Visit Damaged Districts During Attack.

PARIS, March 23.—An official statement issued here to-day says several airplanes attacked Paris to-day, dropping a number of bombs. There were some casualties.

The announcement says:

"At 8.20 o'clock this morning a few airplanes, flying at a very high altitude, succeeded in crossing the lines and attacking Paris. They were immediately pursued by aviators of the entrenched camps of Paris, as well as by those at the front.

"The dropping of bombs at several points has been reported. There are several victims. A later announcement will give further details of the raid."

President Poincare, Premier Clemenceau, the Prefect of Police and other officials visited the places at which bombs were dropped while the raid was still in progress. Going to a school in whose cellar 600 pupils